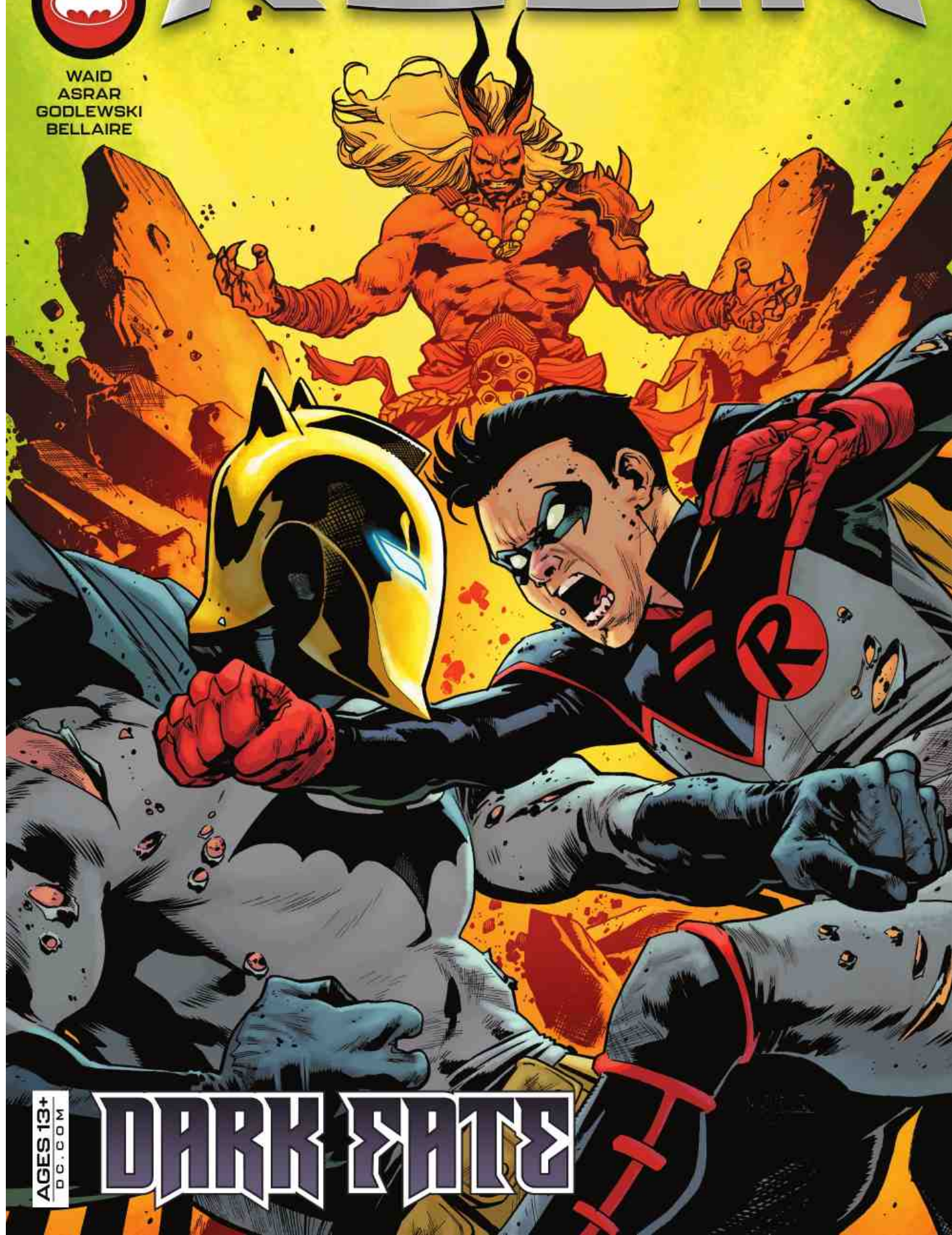




WAID
ASRAR
GODLEWSKI
BELLAIRE

BATMAN vs. ROBIN



AGES 13+
dc.com

DARK FATE

KAL-EL IS BACK ON EARTH—JUST IN TIME FOR LEX LUTHOR
TO DELIVER HIS MOST PERSONAL BLOW YET!

SUPERMAN **ACTION** *COMICS* #1050

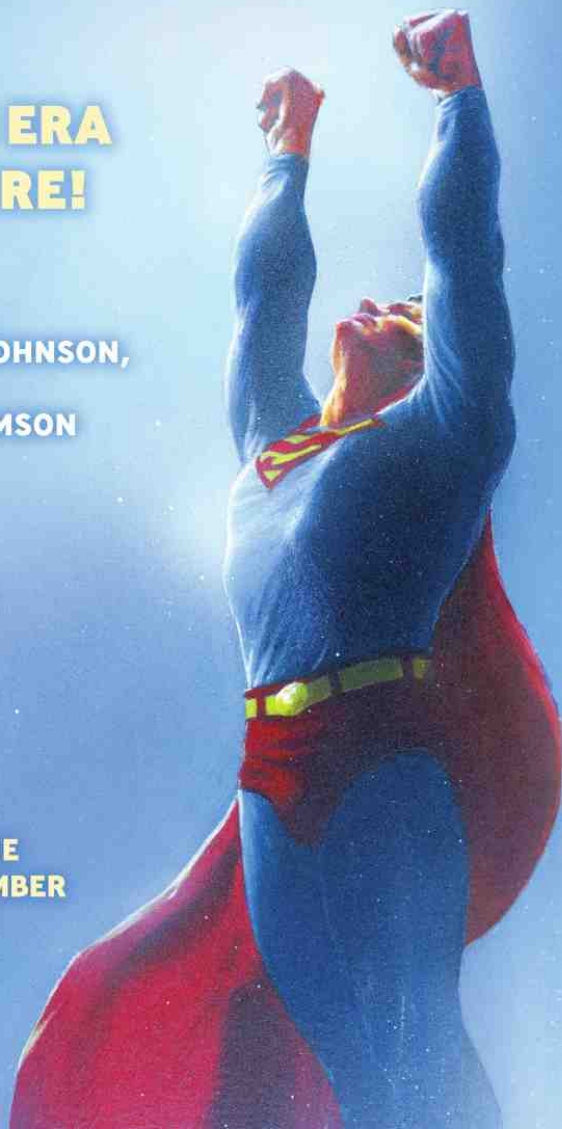
**THE NEW
SUPERMAN ERA
STARTS HERE!**

WRITTEN BY
PHILLIP KENNEDY JOHNSON,
TOM TAYLOR,
AND JOSHUA WILLIAMSON

ART BY
MIKE PERKINS,
CLAYTON HENRY,
AND NICK DRAGOTTA

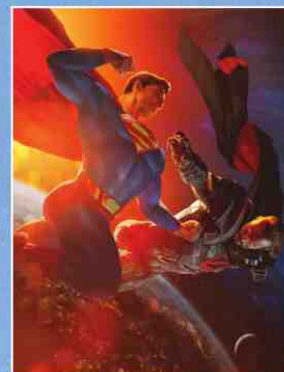
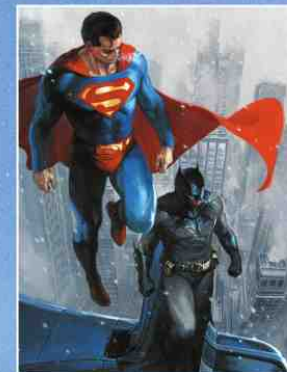
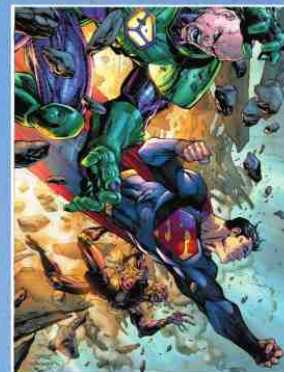
COVER BY
STEVE BEACH

AN OVERSIZE
ANNIVERSARY ISSUE
LANDING THIS DECEMBER



**COLLECT ALL 27 STUNNING
ACTION COMICS #1050 COVERS!**

INCLUDING:



VARIANT COVERS BY

ALEX ROSS • MIKE PERKINS • SIMONE DI MEO
RAFAEL SARMENTO • JIM LEE • GABRIELE DELL'OTTO
RILEY ROSSMO • RAHZZAH • NATHAN SZERDY AND MORE!

**LAZARUS ISLAND.
LAIR OF THE DEVIL NEZHA
AND MOTHER SOUL.**

YOU MAY
WELL BE THE ONLY
BEING WHO FINDS
THE LAZARUS BATHS
SOOTHING.

MY *FATHER*
CREATED THEM SPECIFICALLY
FOR ME. THESE RESINS HAVE
FLOWED THROUGH MY
BLOOD FOR OVER THREE
THOUSAND YEARS.

NOW THEY'RE
NEARLY *DONE*
DRAWING EVERY IOTA OF
EARTH'S MAGIC TO THIS
ISLAND. OUR SUPREMACY
IS *IMMINENT*.

THERE IS
NO ONE LEFT
TO *CHALLENGE*
US.

"WE *HAVE* LOST EYES ON THE *DETECTIVE*
RATHER UNEXPECTEDLY. SHOULD YOU--?"

"THE BAT MAN WOULD NOT BE PROPERLY
PUNISHED BY MERE *POSSESSION*.

"I CHOOSE INSTEAD TO *SAVOR*
THE FATE THAT I *PERSONALLY*
BESTOWED UPON HIM.

"I AM A *GOD*. HE IS A
MORTAL MAN, BROKEN
AND *BEATEN*, WHO WILL
SOON FACE THE SAME FATE
MY *OWN FATHER* DID.

"*DEATH* AT
THE HANDS OF
HIS *SON*."



WITH THE
MAGIC ABOUT
TO BE **GRANTED**
ME, I--

--WE--

--WE WILL
COMMAND AN
ARMY **EIGHT
BILLION
STRONG.**

ENOUGH
POWER TO SEIZE
WORLDS **BEYOND**
THIS ONE, AND
WORLDS BEYOND
THOSE.

ENOUGH TO
PROTECT YOU
FROM **THREATS**
BEYOND?

I SAW YOUR **FACE**
EARLIER. WHEN MENTION
WAS MADE OF **YOUR**
OWN SON SEARCHING
FOR YOU, YOU WERE
FEARFUL--

--FOR **HIM.** FOR THE
VIOLENCE THAT MUST
BE DONE TO HIM
SHOULD HE FOOLISHLY
CONFRONT ME.

THAT
IS ALL.

"NOTHING
MORE."



Batman...Gotham City's Dark Knight Detective. Robin...son of Batman and heir to the al Ghul dynasty. The Boy Wonder has aspired to walk his father's path of righteousness...but his demonic lineage has been reignited. For months, Robin has traveled the world, disowned by Batman and the heroes of Gotham City. His sojourn has brought him to LAZARUS ISLAND, where an ancient evil beckons him...and a deadly magical threat from Batman's past stands poised to murder the Caped Crusader and tear the world asunder...

BATMAN vs. ROBIN

Chapter Four: The Sacrifice

MARK WAID *Writer* **MAHMUD ASRAR**
and **SCOTT GODLEWSKI** *Artists*

JORDIE BELLAIRE *Colors* **STEVE WANDS** *Letters*
MAHMUD ASRAR & NATHAN FAIRBAIRN *Cover*
SIMONE DI MED, SWEENEY BOO, JOHN GIANG,
and **TONY HARRIS** *Variant Covers*

REBECCA BOHANAN *Assistant Editor*
DAVE WIELGOSZ *Associate Editor* **PAUL KAMINSKI** *Editor*

Batman created by Bob Kane with Bill Finger

USE YOUR **PAIN**,
BRUCE. USE IT TO KEEP
YOUR MIND **SHARP**.

YOU'VE
PREPARED AS
BEST YOU CAN,
SO **FOCUS**.

TO MY LEFT--

DOZENS OF **MAGIC**
USERS GATHERED AND
DISCARDED LIKE
USED MATCHES...

...ALL BUT **ONE**:
BLACK ALICE. AS
I RECALL, SHE
SIPHONS **MAGIC**...

...AND IT'S
OBVIOUS INTO
WHAT.

DOCTOR
FATE'S HELMET
IS POSITIVELY
CRACKLING
WITH--

IS THIS
YOUR IDEA
OF A **SNEAK**
ATTACK,
FATHER?

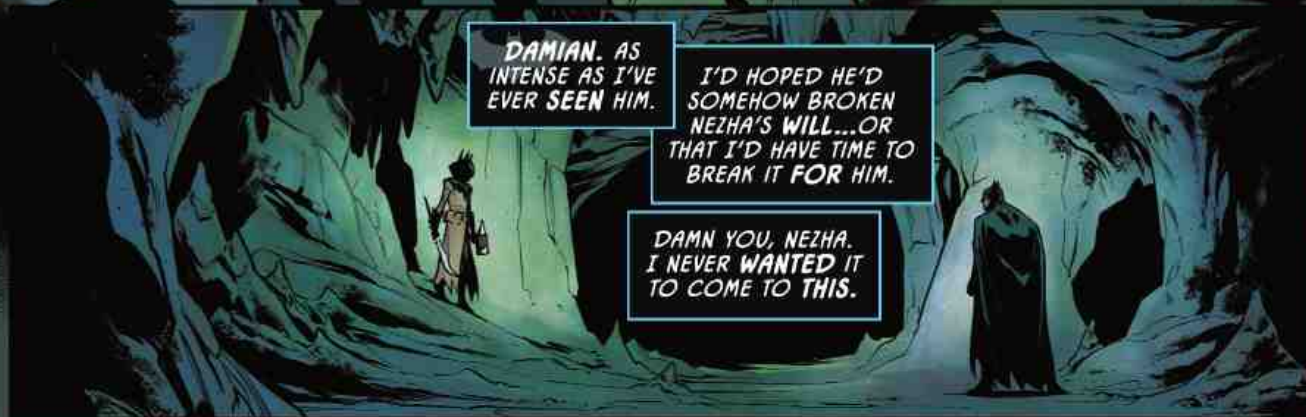


YOUR
FOOTSTEPS
CARRY.

DAMIAN. AS
INTENSE AS I'VE
EVER SEEN HIM.

I'D HOPED HE'D
SOMEHOW BROKEN
NEZHA'S WILL...OR
THAT I'D HAVE TIME TO
BREAK IT FOR HIM.

DAMN YOU, NEZHA.
I NEVER WANTED IT
TO COME TO THIS.



NOW ALL I
CAN DO IS
ENGAGE--

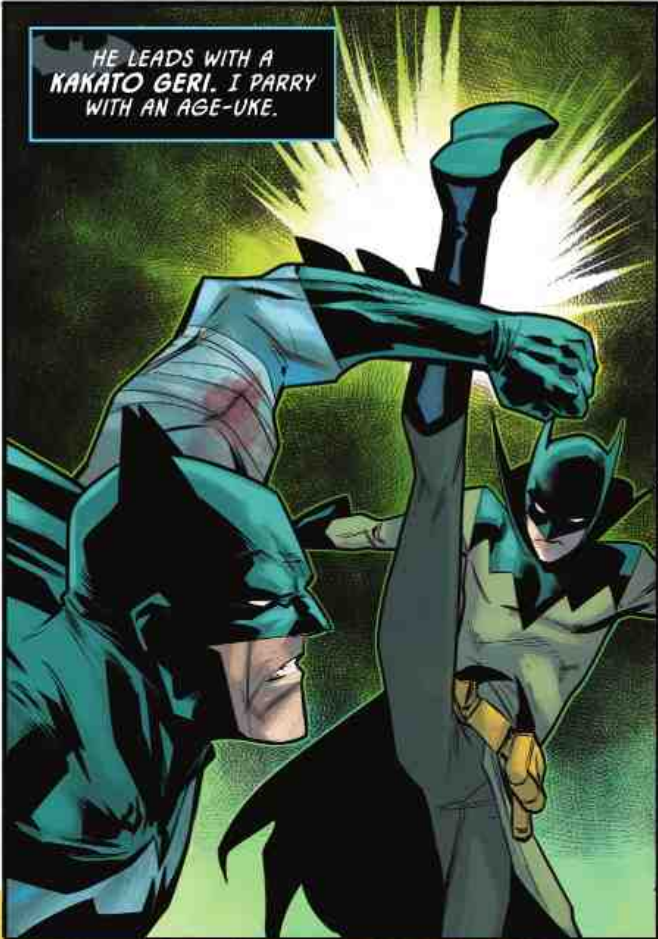
YOU
COME AFTER
AN UNARMED
MAN WITH
WEAPONS?

--CREATE
EVERY
ADVANTAGE
POSSIBLE--

IS THAT
WHAT I TAUGHT
YOU?
COWARDICE?

--AND PRAY DAMIAN
DOESN'T FIGURE OUT
WHAT'S REALLY
GOING ON HERE.





HE LEADS WITH A
KAKATO GERI. I PARRY
WITH AN AGE-UKE.



A WILDCAT
RIGHT HOOK.

A LADY
SHIVA BOB
AND WEAVE.



FROM THE MOMENT I
FIRST LAID EYES ON
HIM, I COULD SEE
THAT DAMIAN--TRAINED
BY THE LEAGUE OF
ASSASSINS--

--WAS ALREADY
HIGHLY SKILLED
IN ANY NUMBER
OF FIGHTING
TECHNIQUES.



SINCE THAT DAY, I'VE
TAUGHT HIM EVERY-
THING I KNOW. I'D
ASSUMED HE'D
RETURNED THE FAVOR.

GNNNGH!

I WAS
MISTAKEN.

HE'S HAD MANY
TEACHERS, SOME
UNKNOWN TO ME.



TUOTO
CHAGI.



IT TOOK TIME, BUT
WE BONDED AS
FATHER AND SON--

RELAX.

--THOUGH IT
REQUIRED
DRAGGING
DAMIAN OUT OF
HIS COMFORT
ZONE MORE
THAN ONCE.



TEISHO-UKE.



HE'S ALWAYS FELT TORN BETWEEN HIS
MOTHER AND ME, BUT TALIA WILL NEVER
CLAIM DAMIAN SO LONG AS I BREATHE.

HE'S MY
SON.



BUT NOT MY
EQUAL. NOT
IN AN ARENA.

KHAO LOI.

ORDINARILY, I'D
HAVE WON THIS
FIGHT BY NOW...



...BUT AS HE KNEW
THEY WOULD...



...DAMIAN'S
GANTLET OF
ROBINS TOOK
TOO MUCH OF
A TOLL ON MY
BODY.

NNGH!



HNNGHH!



I IMAGINE WE'RE
PUTTING ON ONE
HELL OF A SHOW
FOR THOSE SO
ENTERTAINED.

A wide shot of a cave interior. Batman, in his iconic suit and cape, is in the middle of a Yop Chagi kick, a martial arts move where the foot is used as a projectile. He is facing a small, dark figure in the distance. The cave has a large tree on the left and a dark opening in the background.

YOP CHAGI.

A wide shot of the same cave interior. Batman is now in the middle of a Left Cross punch, a martial arts move where the left fist is thrown horizontally. He is facing the same small, dark figure. The cave's lighting and background are consistent with the previous panel.

LEFT CROSS.

A wide shot of the same cave interior. Batman is now in the middle of a Mawashi Geri kick, a martial arts move where the leg is swung in a circular motion to strike. He is facing the same small, dark figure. The cave's lighting and background are consistent with the previous panels.

MAWASHI GERI.

A large panel showing a close-up of Batman and a cloaked figure. Batman is on the left, wearing his suit and cape, and is looking towards the cloaked figure on the right. The cloaked figure is standing with their back to the viewer, facing a bright, glowing light source. A small, glowing yellow cube is floating in the air between them. The cave's interior is visible in the background.

HE COUNTERS
EVERYTHING I CAN
THROW AT HIM.



FINALLY. NEZHA
MAKES HIMSELF
KNOWN.



AS REPULSIVE AS
I REMEMBER HI--

WHAT WAS IT YOU
LIKED TO **GROWL**,
FATHER? "THERE ARE
NINE WAYS TO TAKE AN
OPPONENT DOWN.
SIX OF THEM--

SNAP

"--BREAK
BONES."

AAGGH!

IDIOT! DON'T--GET
DISTRACTED--!



AS
COMPELLING
AS THEIR BATTLE
MAY BE...

...I STRONGLY
SUGGEST YOU TURN
YOUR ATTENTION TO
THE **HELMET** BEFORE
IT **OVERLOADS**
WITH POWER.

THE
DETECTIVE'S
DEATH IS
IMMINENT.

NNGHH!

KRAK

"THE
OTHER
WAYS--"

WELL,
REALLY, WHO
CARES?



YOUR **JAILER**
HAS **PAID** FOR
HIS **DEFIANCE**.

WITH **THIS**, YOU CAN
SCATTER THE **ATOMS** OF
HIS **CORPSE** TO THE
FOUR WINDS--

--AND HAVE
HIS **PROGENY**
SERVE YOU
FOREVER.



LADY **SHIVA**
TAUGHT ME
THIS ONE.

IT'S NOT
ENOUGH SIMPLY
TO **SPLINTER**
THE **RIBS**.



MAKE
SURE THOSE
FRAGMENTS PIERCE
THE **LUNGS**.

GET...



...GET UP...

WAIT.





WAIT.

YOU *KNEW*
THIS WAS A
DEATH TRAP.



BUT THE
BATMAN NEVER
ENTERS A TRAP
WITHOUT A
PLAN!

WHAT
WAS IT?

DAMIAN MADE A
GRAVE MISTAKE
WHEN HE
ATTACKED ME.



WHAT WAS
IT, OLD MAN?
TELL ME!

HE ASSUMED IT WAS
MY FIRST RECON
THROUGH THESE CAVES.



TALIA,
NOW!

IT WAS MY
SECOND.



ON MY FIRST PASS,
I FOUND TALIA
HELD CAPTIVE...

...FREED
HER...



...AND TOLD HER TO WAIT
FOR MY SIGNAL WHEN I
MOST NEEDED HER.

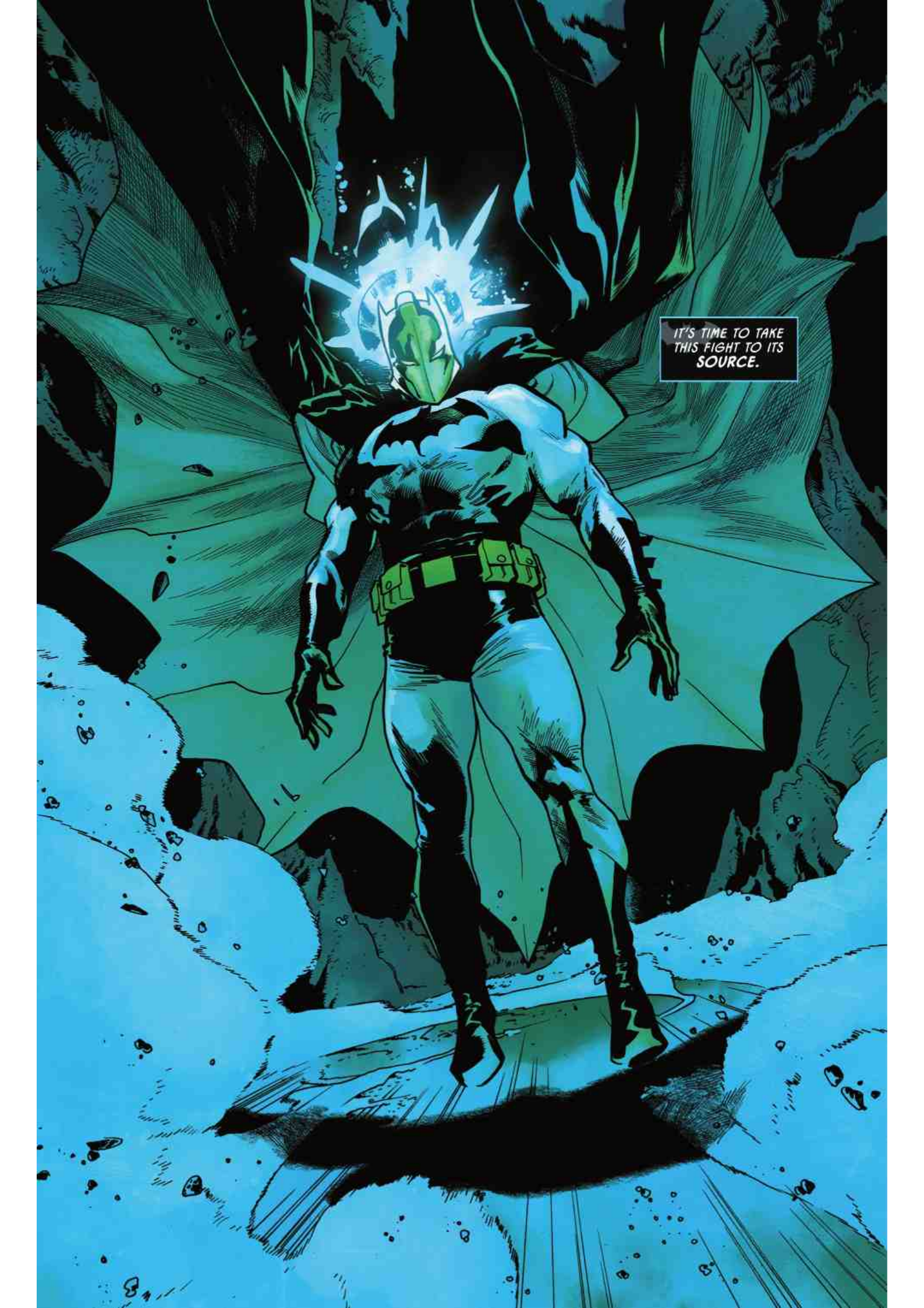
WHOK



KLANG

I'M TIRED OF
BEING BROKEN
AND BLOODIED
BY MY CHILD.



A full-page comic book illustration of Batman standing in a dark, rocky cave. He is wearing his iconic suit, which is colored in shades of blue and black, with a yellow utility belt. His cape is spread out behind him, and he is looking directly at the viewer. In the background, a large, glowing skull with sharp teeth is visible, emitting a bright light. The cave walls are jagged and dark, with some small rocks and debris scattered on the ground. The overall tone is dramatic and intense.

IT'S TIME TO TAKE
THIS FIGHT TO ITS
SOURCE.

FIRST,
THOUGH--

YOU AND
I, NEZHA.

YOU
AND I.

--FREE
DAMIAN--

KZZZZZZZZTTT



--AND LET THE
HELMET MOVE THE
REST OF NEZHA'S
VICTIMS--





MY GOD.

THIS IS HOW SORCERERS SEE
THE WORLD. I ALWAYS THOUGHT
IT WAS A METAPHOR, BUT NO--

THE BAT MAN.

THERE'S MAGIC
IN EVERYTHING.



CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR UNEARNED
ACQUISITION--

--FOR ALL THE
GOOD IT WILL
DO YOU.

YOU ARE NO MORE
THREAT TO ME THAN A
CARNIVAL MAGICIAN
MAKING CARDS
DISAPPEAR.

I HAVE
KNOWN
MAGIC FOR
CENTURIES.

YOU, ON THE
OTHER HAND,
HAVE MUCH TO
LEARN--

--AND
NO TIME IN
WHICH TO
LEARN IT.

HE'S NOT
WRONG.

SO LET'S START
WITH SOME
FAMILIARS.



LITERALLY.

SKREEEE

AGAINST THE
WHEELS OF FIRE
AND WIND? I
THINK NOT.

YOU
BAFFLE
ME.

YOU AND
YOUR ILK CLAIM TO
CARE SO MUCH
FOR YOUR FELLOW
HUMANS--

--YET YOU
ARE SO EAGER
TO DAMN THEM
TO ETERNAL
EMPTINESS!

IF THEY DON'T
BOW TO HIM,
I ASSUME.

I CAN'T LET
HIM BAIT ME.

JUST KEEP
FIGHTING.



AND WHERE
DO YOU
THINK **YOU'RE**
GOING?

MY **GREAT-
GRANDCHILD.**

YOU WERE
TO GUARD
AGAINST BATMAN'S
INTERFERENCE.



YOU ARE
SUCH A
**DISAPPOINT-
MENT.**



WHAT YOU
HAVE *TAKEN* FROM ME
TIME AND AGAIN IS
UNFORGIVABLE--



--TO ME
AND TO THE
EARTH!



NEZHA WILL
REMOVE THE
BLIGHT OF
HUMANITY--



--GIVING *ME* A
CLEAN SLATE UPON
WHICH TO NURTURE
LIFE--



--AS IT
WAS TRULY
MEANT TO
FLOURISH!



WHERE YOU'RE THE
ONLY *HUMAN*?

SHAPING WHAT'S
LEFT ACCORDING
TO YOUR *BLACK*
MORALS?



NO
THANK
YOU.



IT'S BEEN
TRUE SINCE TIME
IMMEMORIAL.

PEOPLE ARE
SCUTTERING, SCURRYING
WEAKLINGS LIVING LIVES OF
PUNISHING CHAOS, BENT
ON DESTROYING THEM-
SELVES AND THEIR--



--PLANET--!



AND WHY?

BECAUSE
THEIR EXISTENCE
HAS NO MEANING!
NO GOAL, NO
DIRECTION!



I CAN REMOVE
THEIR CHAOS! INSPIRE
THEM! I WILL SAVE THEM
BY GIVING THEM
PURPOSE--



--WITH
HONOR!



TO BE
THE FATHER
MY SON
NEEDS!

YOU'VE NOWHERE
TO TURN, YOU
PHARISAICAL
CRONE.

SURRENDER.

SHE *WON'T*. SHE IS
AN AL GHUL. YET SHE
IS *OBLIVIOUS* TO
THE TRUTH.

SHE
CONSCRIPTED YOU
TO FIND THE *DEMON*
OF LAZARUS ISLAND
NOT ONCE BUT TWICE--

--UNAWARE
THAT IT WAS WASTED
EFFORT.

FOR THE
DEMON OF
LAZARUS
ISLAND IS
HER.

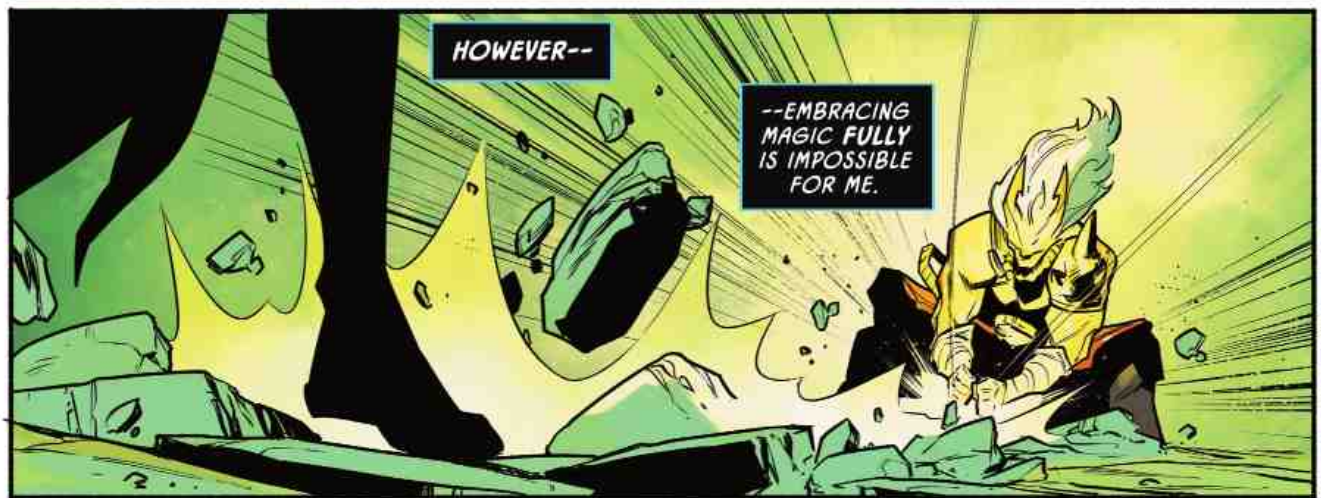
AND
DEMONS MUST
BE CONSIGNED
TO THE
DEEPEST PITS
OF HELL.

YOU WON'T
MURDER ME, TALIA.
NOT WITH THE *BOY*
AROUND.

WHY DO YOU
THINK HE WOULD
ALLOW THAT?

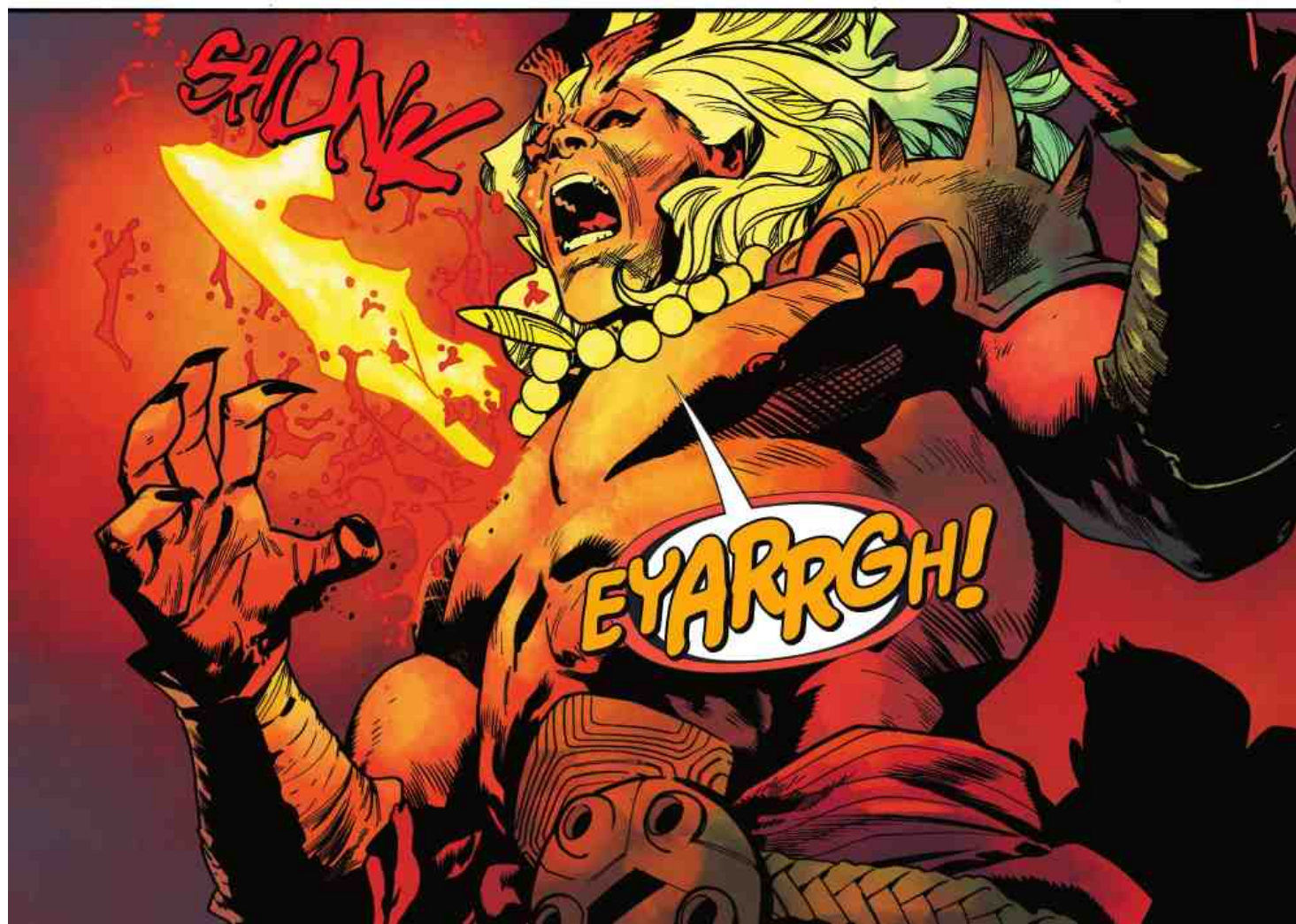
BECAUSE
I'M HIS
MOTHER.

















NO! NO
NO NO NO
NO...
IS HE--



DAMIAN, I--
I'M SORRY.
HE'S
GONE.



BELOVED.



THEN AGAIN,
PERHAPS YOUR PAIN
IS PUNISHMENT
ENOUGH--

SHUT UP!

MOTHER WAS
WRONG! THE
DEEPEST PITS OF
HELL AREN'T DEEP
ENOUGH FOR
YOU!

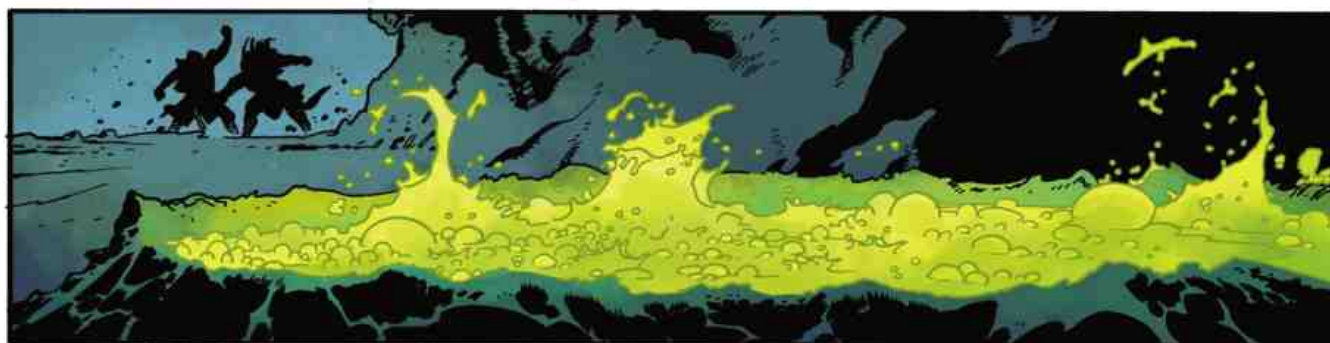
YOU
WILL PAY
DEARLY FOR
THIS!

KRAKA-KOON

AND FOR
SO MUCH
MORE.

KING FIRE
BULL...!

HELLO,
FATHER.







UNNNNNHHH...

THE BAT...
THE BAT
WEAKENED
ME...

WHAT A
COURAGEOUS
EXCUSE FOR
LOSING.

GET UP.



PLEASE...

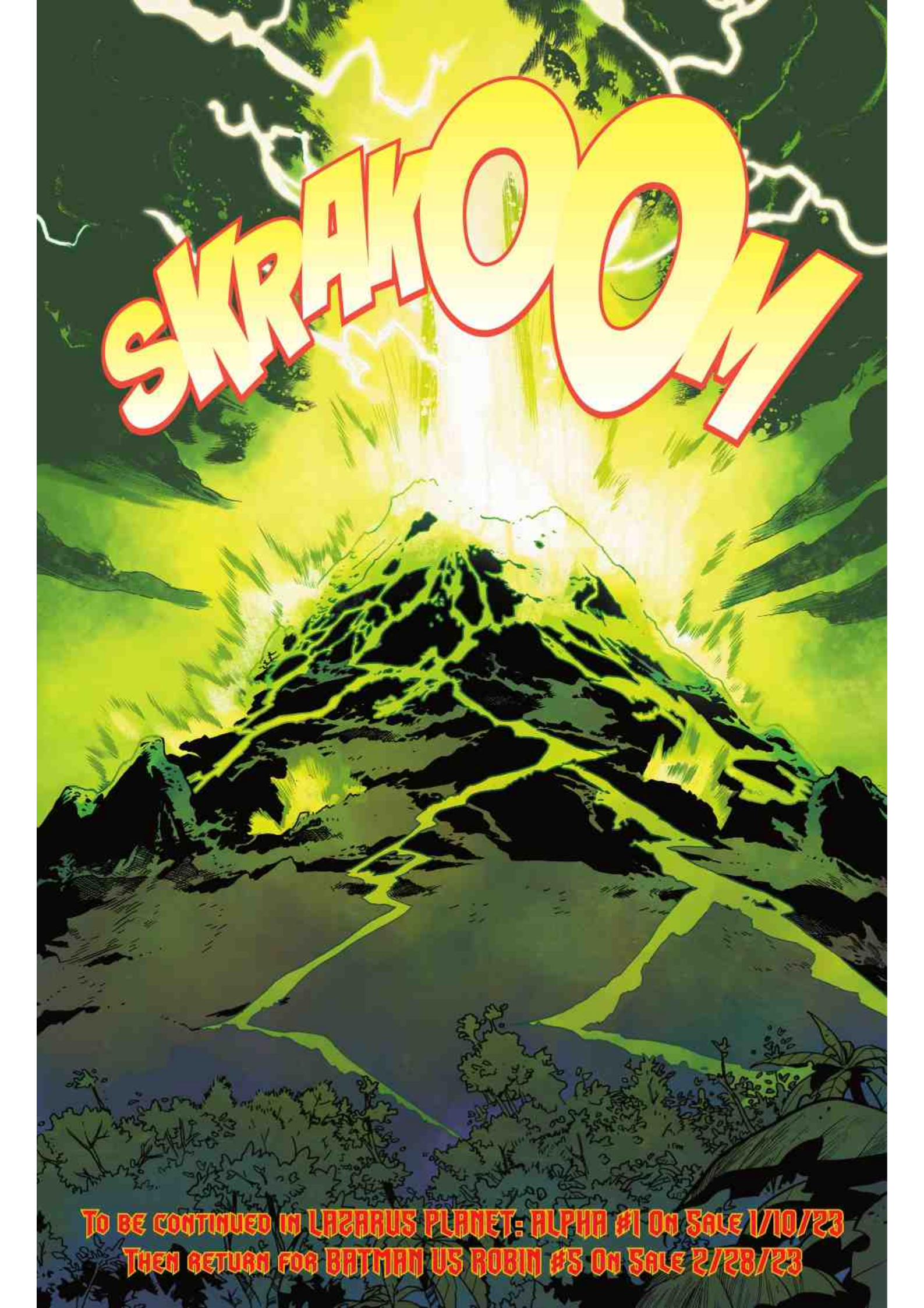


IT'S NOT
WORKING!

TRY
HARDER!
TRY--







SKRAKOOO

TO BE CONTINUED IN LAZARUS PLANET: ALPHA #1 ON SALE 1/10/23
THEN RETURN FOR BATMAN VS ROBIN #5 ON SALE 2/28/23

KEVIN O'NEILL

August 1953 — November 2022

Kevin was a dream collaborator: an artist you loved as a person who took dreams in the form of script and made them real in the form of pages that excited readers everywhere. Setting his imagination loose was a danger to the status quo and a bonus for lovers of the artform. From the tiniest detail to the deepest subtext, Kevin worked to bring life and joy to the stories he told. DC will miss him.



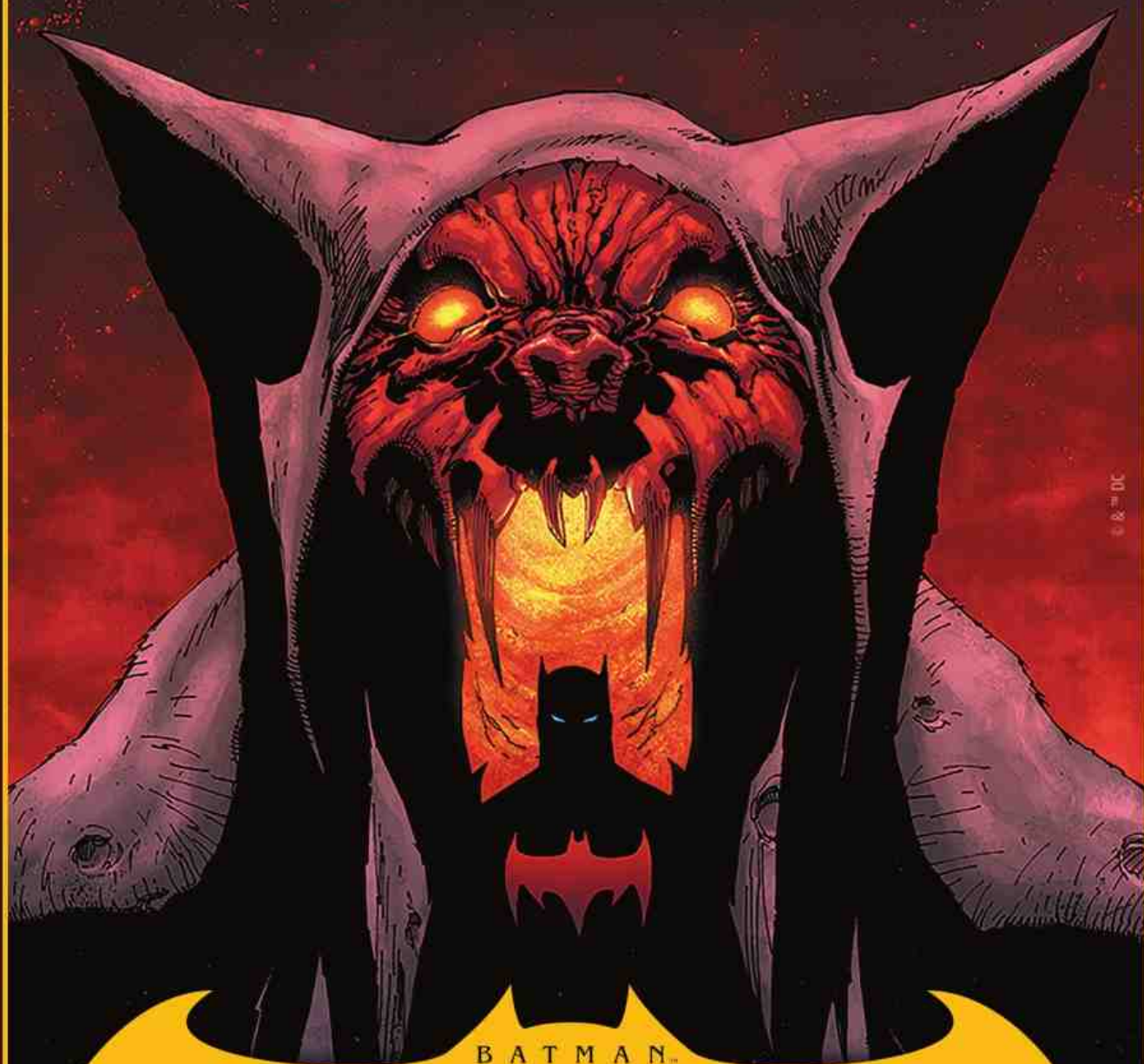
Art presented from *League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*
Volume Two™ and © Alan Moore
and Kevin O'Neill 2002

MEN FROM
- MARS -
FRESH ATTEMPTS
HAVE BEEN MADE
TO SIGNAL
C. CAVE
Naturalist
and Denver
League



**A SINISTER PRESENCE HAS
POSSESSED GOTHAM'S ROGUES...**

ALONGSIDE A CHILLING MYSTERY THAT STRIKES A CHORD WITH THE DARK KNIGHT.



BATMAN

DETECTIVE COMICS

#1067

WRITTEN BY RAM V
ART BY IVAN REIS

DETECTIVE COMICS #1067 VARIANT COVER BY JIM LEE

DECEMBER

DC NATION HOLIDAY EDITION

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM DC!

Hope you have
as much fun
as Harley this
festive season!



Harley Quinn #25 variant cover
by A.L. Kaplan

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The Last Kryptonian-DCP

